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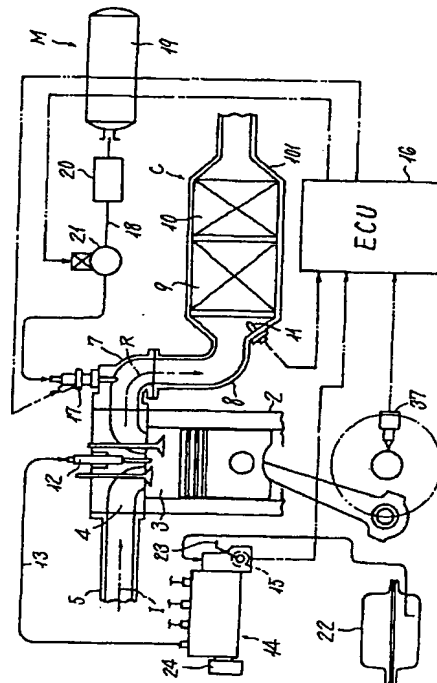
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(54)【発明の名称】 排気ガス浄化装置

(57) 【要約】

【目的】 この発明の目的は、 NO_x 触媒の雰囲気温度が比較的低温域にあっても、添加量の割に NO_x 浄化効率を高めることにある。

【構成】 排気路R上に設けられ炭化水素を還元剤として活性化され窒素酸化物NO_xを分解する窒素酸化物還元触媒9と、排気路R上で上記窒素酸化物還元触媒の上流側に設けられる還元用炭化水素添加手段Mとを有し、還元用炭化水素添加手段Mは燃料を改質したタンク19、33、39に貯蔵した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を排気路Rに添加することを特徴とする。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】ディーゼルエンジンの排気を外部に排出する排気路上に設けられ炭化水素を還元剤として窒素酸化物を分解する窒素酸化物還元触媒と、上記排気路上で上記窒素酸化物還元触媒の上流側に設けられる還元用炭化水素添加手段とを有し、上記還元用炭化水素添加手段は燃料を改質シタンクに貯蔵した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を上記排気路に添加することを特徴とする排気ガス浄化装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【産業上の利用分野】本発明は、たとえば、車両のディーゼルエンジンから排出される排気ガスから NO_x （窒素酸化物）を効率良く排除できる排気ガス浄化装置、特にここでは窒素酸化物還元触媒に還元用炭化水素を添加してその浄化効率を向上させる排気ガス浄化装置に関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術】一般に、車両のエンジンを駆動することにより排出される排気ガス中には CO_2 、 H_2O 、 N_2 の他に、 CO （一酸化炭素）、 HC （炭化水素）、 NO_x （窒素酸化物）が含まれる。ここで CO （一酸化炭素）、 HC （炭化水素）、 NO_x （窒素酸化物）は有害成分としてその排出量が規制されており、通常、ガソリンエンジンではその排気系に三元触媒が装着され、しかも、空燃比が理論空燃比に調整されることによって、これらの有害成分の無害化処理を行なっている。

【0003】これに対して、ディーゼルエンジンは酸素過剰下で運転されることより、空燃比を理論空燃比に合わせることができず、三元触媒を用いての排ガス浄化処理は行なえなかった。即ち、供給酸素量が多い状態で運転されるディーゼルエンジンでは CO 、 HC の排出量は比較的少なく、これに対して、 NO_x の排出量が高レベルと成る。

【0004】このため、ディーゼルエンジンの排気系にはリーン運転下で NO_x を還元処理できる窒素酸化物還元触媒を内蔵した NO_x 触媒コンバータが装着される傾向にあり、各種提案が成されている。

【0005】処で、ディーゼルエンジンの排気系に NO_x を還元処理できる NO_x 触媒が装着された場合、その NO_x 触媒は図8に示すような活性化温度 T_{so} を上回るとその浄化効率を高め、しかも排気ガス中の HC （炭化水素）/ NO_x のモル比が所定量を上回るとその浄化効率を向上させることが知られており、たとえば図9に示すような触媒活性域Aを有している。なお、ここで横軸は HC/NO_x の体積比であるモル比で表され、縦軸は排気ガスの温度で、ここでの一例としての NO_x 触媒の触媒活性域は HC/NO_x モル比が1以上ある場合と成っている。

【0006】これ故に NO_x 触媒の浄化効率 η_{NO_x} を高

めるべく、排気系の NO_x 触媒の上流側に還元用炭化水素 HC を添加することが有効であると推測される。しかし、排気系への添加の場合、燃料である軽油を添加すると、この軽油は NO_x 触媒の浄化効率を高めることはできるが、ディーゼルエンジンの出力には全く寄与せず、燃費の低下を招く可能性がある。

【0007】なお、還元用炭化水素 HC （炭化水素）を吸気路側に添加する方式を採ったものもあるが、吸気路に添加された還元用炭化水素 HC は、実質的に NO_x 触媒にどの程度達するか把握しづらく、しかも、添加された HC （炭化水素）はシリンダ内壁面近傍に達してピストンの隙間からのオイル中に混入し、オイルの劣化を早めるという問題も生じる。

【0008】処で、軽油等の燃料を成す HC （炭化水素）はその雰囲気、即ち温度や圧力によってその状態を変化させ、特に、炭素数の相違に応じた各成分毎にその特性は変化する。例えば、軽油はこれが常温常圧の雰囲気下にあると、その生成物の内、炭素数が5乃至15にある HC （炭化水素）成分が液状を、炭素数4以下の HC （炭化水素）成分がガス状を、炭素数16以上の HC （炭化水素）成分が固体状を成すが、これら状態は温度や圧力等の雰囲気の変化によって大きく変化する。しかも、各生成物毎にその特性、特に、 NO_x 触媒を活性化して窒素酸化物を分解する還元剤としての特性を異ならせていることが推定されている。

【0009】

【発明が解決しようとする課題】このように、排気系に還元用炭化水素 HC としての軽油等の HC （炭化水素）を添加する場合は添加量を確実に把握でき、オイル劣化等の問題も生じないという利点があった。

【0010】しかし、排気系に HC （炭化水素）として軽油等の燃料を供給することによって、 NO_x 触媒を活性化出来るとしても、軽油等の燃料を改質して添加する場合、ガス、液体と個別にタンクに充分に貯蔵するようにしておかないと、常に変化するエンジン状態に最適な量を供給することは困難な場合が多い。即ち、タンク無しに、エンジン運転状態に応じたコントロールによってエンジンの燃料を改質処理し供給するとしても、 NO_x 触媒の浄化効率を充分に高めるだけの量の改質還元用炭化水素 HC を添加出来ることは限らず、量確保が困難な場合が多い。

【0011】このように還元用炭化水素 HC としての軽油等の HC （炭化水素）を必要量だけ常に確保できるとは限らず、従来は、添加量不足や、逆に過剰供給により HC （炭化水素）の大気排出量が多くなるという問題があった。

【0012】本発明の目的は、運転状態にかかわらず、常に、還元用炭化水素 HC を適量づつ添加して、 NO_x 浄化効率を高めることのできる排気ガス浄化装置を提供することにある。

【0013】

【課題を解決するための手段】上述の目的を達成するために、本発明は、ディーゼルエンジンの排気を外部に排出する排気路上に設けられ炭化水素を還元剤として窒素酸化物を分解する窒素酸化物還元触媒と、上記排気路上で上記窒素酸化物還元触媒の上流側に設けられる還元用炭化水素添加手段とを有し、上記還元用炭化水素添加手段は燃料を改質したタンクに貯蔵した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を上記排気路に添加することを特徴とする。

【0014】

【作用】燃料を改質してタンクに貯蔵した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素が排気路に添加されるので、運転状態に応じた必要添加量を確保出来ることと成る。

【0015】

【実施例】図1の排気ガス処理装置はディーゼルエンジン（以後単にエンジンと記す）1に装着されている。このエンジン1のエンジンブロック2内には4つの燃焼室3（図1には一気筒のみを示した）が直列に配設され、各燃焼室3の吸気ポート4は吸気マニホールド5に連通し、同吸気マニホールド5に図示しない吸気管やエアクリーナが連結され、他方、各燃焼室3の排気ポート6は排気マニホールド7に連通し、同排気マニホールド7に排気管8を介して窒素酸化物還元触媒（以後単にNO_x触媒と記す）9及び酸化触媒10を収容した触媒コンバータCや図示しないマフラー等が順次連結され、排気路Rが構成されている。

【0016】各燃焼室3は燃料噴射弁12をそれぞれ備え、各燃料噴射弁12は各燃料パイプ13を介して燃料噴射ポンプ14に連結されている。この燃料噴射ポンプ14はエンジン1の図示しないクランクシャフトの回転力を受けて駆動される列型ポンプであり、燃料タンク22より燃料（軽油）供給を受け、図示しないアクセルペダルに連動するロードレバー23のレバー位置V_Lに応じて燃料噴射量を調量し、タイマー24により調整される噴射時期に各燃料噴射弁12を駆動させるという周知の構成を採る。即ち、燃料噴射ポンプ14は各気筒の圧縮上死点前の噴射時期において各気筒に対応する各燃料噴射弁12を噴射駆動させ、高圧燃料（軽油）を各気筒の燃焼室に噴霧するように構成されている。図1中において符号15は燃料噴射弁14のレバー位置V_L信号、即ち、負荷情報を後述のECU16に伝える負荷センサを示す。

【0017】触媒コンバータCはそのケーシング101内にモノリス型の触媒担持体を直列状に一对備え、各触媒担持体にはゼオライト系のNO_x触媒9と、パラジウムPd系や、Pt系などの酸化触媒10とを装備する。図1中の符号11はケーシング101に支持され、排気ガス温度T情報を後述のECU16に出力する排温センサを示す。

【0018】ここでゼオライト系のNO_x触媒9としては、例えば、銅系ゼオライト触媒（CU/ZSM-5）が採用される。この触媒の特性は、HCの供給を受けることにより、このHC成分を還元剤としてより浄化効率を向上させ、NO_xを効果的にN₂とO₂に分解する。他方、パラジウムPd系の酸化触媒10はHC（炭化水素）等を効果的にH₂O、CO₂に分解する能力を有する。

【0019】更に、排気マニホールド7の合流部近傍には改質した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を排気路Rに添加する還元用炭化水素添加手段Mが連結されている。この還元用炭化水素添加手段MはHCインジェクタ17と、HCインジェクタ17にHCパイプ18を介して順次連結される開閉弁21、レギュレータ20及び軽油等の燃料を改質して得た改質ガスとしてのエチレンC₂H₄を充填したHCタンク19とで構成されている。

【0020】ここで、HCインジェクタ17は流体噴射装置であり、例えば、図2に示すように排気マニホールド7に支持される本体25と、本体25内の先端に形成される噴射孔26と、噴射孔26を開閉させる弁体27と、弁体を開弁付勢するバネ28と、バネの弾性力に抗して弁体27を開弁方向に駆動するソレノイド29と、噴射孔26にHCパイプ18からのエチレンC₂H₄を導くガイド部30とで構成されている。ここでソレノイド29は後述のECU16に接続され、同部のオンオフ信号（デューティ比）に応じて弁体27が噴射孔26を開閉駆動させ、そのデューティ比がゼロでは無噴射を、デューティ比が100%では最大噴射量を確保することができる。

【0021】開閉弁21は後述のECU16からのオンオフ信号によって切り換えられ、適時にエチレンC₂H₄をHCインジェクタ17に供給する。レギュレータ20はHCタンク19からのガスであるエチレンC₂H₄の圧力を所望値に減圧して開閉弁21に供給する。HCタンク19は予め軽油等の燃料の改質処理によって得られたエチレンC₂H₄を充填した高圧タンクであり、予め個別にタンクに貯蔵して工場生産され、適時に交換して車載される。なお、このHCタンク19に燃料を改質した改質ガスに代えて、燃料を改質した改質液体である炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を貯蔵し、供給するようにしても良い。

【0022】ECU16は周知のマイクロコンピュータで要部が構成され、ここではクランク角情報である各気筒毎の噴射時期θ_i情報をクランク角センサ37より取り込み、燃料噴射弁14のレバー位置V_L情報を負荷センサ15より取り込み、排気ガス温度T情報を排温センサ11より取り込み、図4乃至図5のプログラムに沿ってHCインジェクタ17を駆動するように機能する。

【0023】以下、図4乃至図5のプログラムに沿って

本装置の作動を説明する。

【0024】エンジン1が運転に入ると、ECU16は図示しない周知のメインルーチンに沿ってエンジン駆動制御に入る。

【0025】メインルーチンではエンジン始動と共に開閉弁21をオン作動し、両タンク33、39の貯蔵量が所定値を上回るか否かを判断し下回るとタンク交換指令を発し、その途中でHC噴射制御ルーチンに達すると、図4の制御に進む。

【0026】ここでステップs1、s2では排気ガス温度 T_g を取り込み、同排気ガス温度 T_g が予め設定されている触媒活性化温度 T_{so} を上回る前は暖機中と見做してステップs3に進み、デューティ比 DUs をゼロ、即ち無噴射として処理し、メインルーチンにリターンする。逆に、ステップs2で排気ガス温度 T_g が触媒活性化温度 T_{so} を上回り、触媒が活性化したと見做されると、ステップs4に達し、予めメインルーチンで算出されているレバー位置 V_L 及びエンジン回転数 Ne 情報を取り込む。その後、ステップs5では図3のHC噴射量相当デューティ比算出マップに基づき、HC噴射量相当デューティ比 DUs を算出し、メインルーチンにリターンする。

【0027】このステップs5で用いるHC噴射量相当デューティ比算出マップは、レバー位置 V_L 及びエンジン回転数 Ne に応じたエチレン C_2H_4 の目標量(全筒相当分)相当のHC噴射量相当デューティ比 DUs を算出することができるよう予め設定される。

【0028】他方、メインルーチンでは、クランク角センサ36よりの噴射時期 θ_i パルスによる割り込み処理が実行されており、ここでは、所定クランク角毎の噴射時期 θ_i に達すると、図5に示すステップm1において最新のHC噴射量相当デューティ比 DUs を取り込む。更にステップm2では同デューティ比 DUs でHCインジェクタ17を駆動し、排気路R下流に全筒相当量のエチレン C_2H_4 を添加し、メインルーチンにリターンする。

【0029】このように、この装置ではエンジン1の NO_x 触媒9が活性化温度 T_{so} を上回った後の運転時において、エンジン負荷及びエンジン回転数が大きいほど多量のエチレン C_2H_4 ガスを還元剤として排気路Rより NO_x 触媒に添加する。このため NO_x を N_2 と O_2 に確実に分解でき、同時にHCを H_2O 、 CO_2 に分解し、しかも、 NO_x 触媒9を通過したHCを酸化触媒10が確実に H_2O 、 CO_2 に分解するので、HCをそのまま大気放出することを確実に防止できる。

【0030】ここで、図7に還元用炭化水素HCとしてエチレン C_2H_4 を用いた際の NO_x 触媒9の NO_x 、HC、COの排気ガス温度に応じた各浄化効率 η を示した。なお、図6には還元用炭化水素HCとして軽油を用い、他は同一条件で得られた NO_x 、HC、COの排気

ガス温度に応じた各浄化効率 η を示した。

【0031】これらより明らかなように、還元用炭化水素HCとしてエチレン C_2H_4 を NO_x 触媒に添加した場合の浄化効率(図7中の排気ガス温度300℃の点での浄化効率 η_g)のほうが、軽油添加の場合の浄化効率

(図6中の排気ガス温度300℃の点での浄化効率 η_l)より明確に高められており、特に、 NO_x 触媒の排気ガス温度が比較的低温域にあっても、高効率で NO_x を浄化処理できる。この結果、エチレン C_2H_4 添加によって、この添加量の割に、高効率で NO_x を浄化処理でき、無駄なHC(炭化水素)の添加を防止し、燃費の低下を低減できる。

【0032】上述の処において、ガス化したHC(炭化水素)としてエチレン C_2H_4 を説明したが、これに代えて、プロピレン C_3H_6 その他のガス化したHC(炭化水素)を用いることもできる。

【0033】上述の処において、還元用炭化水素添加手段Mはエチレン C_2H_4 を排気路Rに添加していたが、これに代えて、図8に示すように還元用炭化水素添加手段M1が燃料タンク22の軽油を軽油改質触媒31で改質して改質ガス及び改質液体を生成し、これらをエンジン運転状態に応じ、排気路Rに添加しても良い。なお、軽油を改質した改質液体を還元用炭化水素として排気路Rに添加するとより効果的に NO_x を浄化出来る場合がある。

【0034】この場合の還元用炭化水素添加手段M1は、軽油の燃料タンク22に軽油改質手段34、気液分離器35を順次接続し、気液分離器35の改質ガスを逆流防止弁32を介し改質燃料タンク33に、改質液体を改質燃料液体タンク39及び余剰分を燃料タンク22に戻すように接続される。ここで、改質燃料タンク33及び改質燃料液体タンク39が図示しない切換え弁を介しHCインジェクタ17に接続される。ここで、図示しない切換え弁及びHCインジェクタ17はECU16により駆動制御される。

【0035】軽油改質手段34はヒータ36を備えた改質触媒収容器37に軽油改質触媒31を充填する。ヒータ36はヒータ駆動回路38を介してECU16に連結されている。軽油改質触媒31としてはゼオライト系の軽油改質触媒が採用される。

【0036】このゼオライト系の軽油改質触媒は供給された軽油をガス状及び液状のHC(炭化水素)成分、即ち、還元用炭化水素HCに変化させる。ここで、軽油改質手段34からの生成物は気液分離器35で比較的低分子の改質ガスであるHC(炭化水素)成分とその他の改質液体であるHC(炭化水素)成分に分離され、改質ガスが改質燃料タンク33に、その他の改質液体が改質燃料液体タンク39に、その余剰分が燃料タンク22にそれぞれ戻される様に構成される。

【0037】なお、軽油改質触媒31はヒータ36によ

る加熱処理を受けて、軽油の成分比率を低分子成分比率の高い生成物（ガス状生成物）に改質するというハイドロクラッキング作用を示すものであり、このような軽油改質触媒として使用できるゼオライト系の軽油改質触媒のハイドロクラッキング作用については特公昭51-15000号公報に開示されている。

【0038】この場合、ECU16は図示しないメインルーチンにおいて両タンク33、39の貯蔵量が所定値を上回るまで改質ガス及び改質液体を継続的に生成する処理を行ない、所定量上回ると改質処理を停止するという制御を繰り返す。そして、エンジン負荷及びエンジン回転数が大きいほど多量の改質ガスあるいは改質液体を車載のタンク17、39よりHCインジェクタ17に選択的に導き、NO_x触媒9に添加する制御を行ない、これによって、エンジンの広範囲の運転域でNO_x触媒の浄化効率 η_{NOx} を十分に高められる。

【0039】

【発明の効果】以上のように、本発明の排気ガス浄化装置は、排気路に予めタンクに貯蔵されている燃料を改質しタンクに貯蔵した炭化水素を主成分とした還元用炭化水素を添加するので、運転状態にかかわらず、常に、還元用炭化水素HCを適量づつ添加して、NO_x浄化効率を高めることが出来る。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の排気ガス浄化装置の概略全体構成図である。

【図2】図1の装置で用いるHCインジェクタの断面図である。

【図3】図1の装置で用いるHC噴射量相当デューティ

ー比算出マップの特性線図である。

【図4】図1の装置で用いるHC噴射制御ルーチンのフローチャートである。

【図5】図1の装置で用いるインジェクタ駆動ルーチンのフローチャートである。

【図6】軽油添加時の浄化効率の一例を示す特性線図である。

【図7】本装置にエチレンC₂H₄添加した際の浄化効率の一例を示す特性線図である。

【図8】本発明の他の実施例で用いる還元用炭化水素添加手段の概略構成線図である。

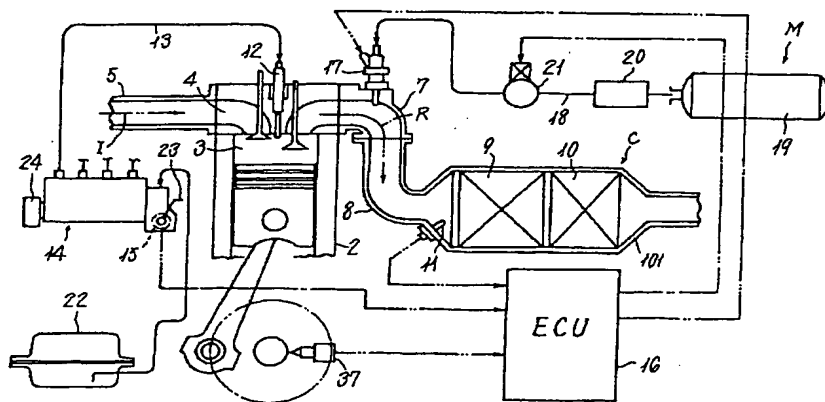
【図9】排気ガス浄化装置で用いるNO_x触媒の浄化効率特性線図である。

【図10】排気ガス浄化装置で用いるNO_x触媒の触媒活性域特性線図である。

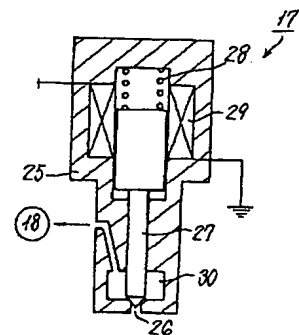
【符号の説明】

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | エンジン |
| 3 | 燃烧室 |
| 8 | 排気管 |
| 9 | NO _x 触媒 |
| 10 | 酸化触媒 |
| 12 | 燃料噴射弁 |
| 16 | ECU |
| 17 | HCインジェクタ |
| C | 触媒コンバータ |
| R | 排気路 |
| M | 還元用炭化水素添加手段 |
| 21 | 燃料改質手段 |

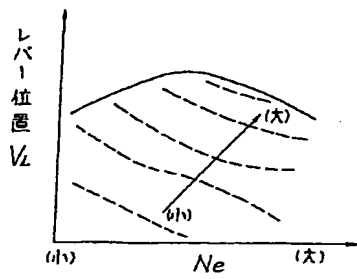
【図1】



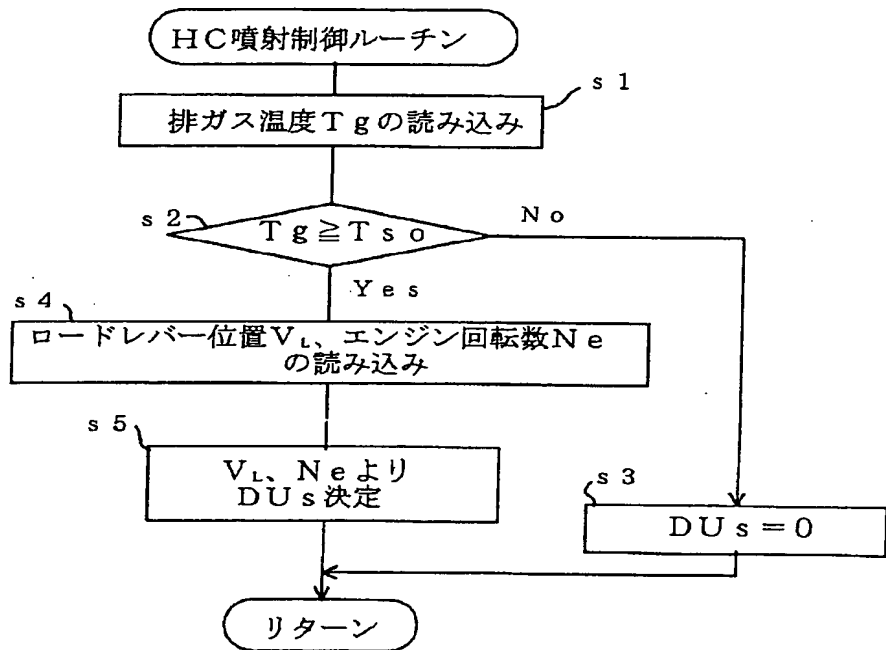
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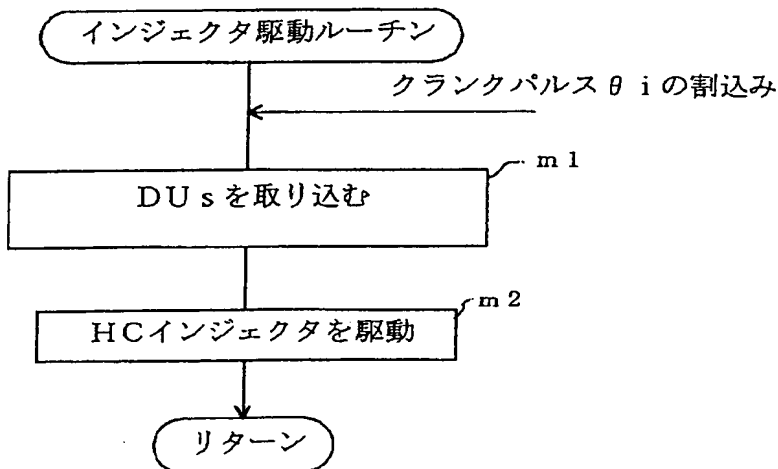
【図3】



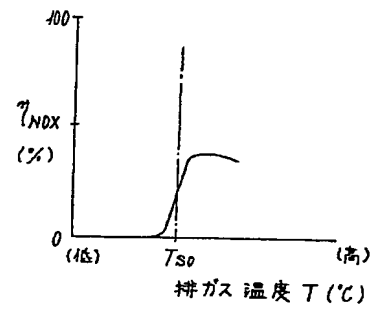
【図4】



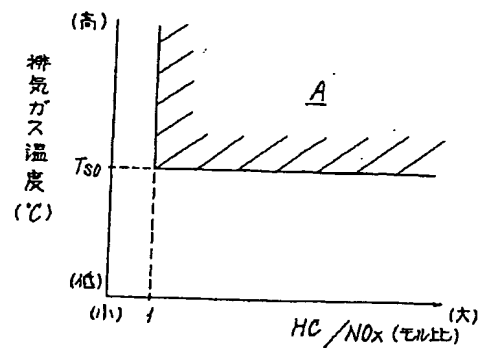
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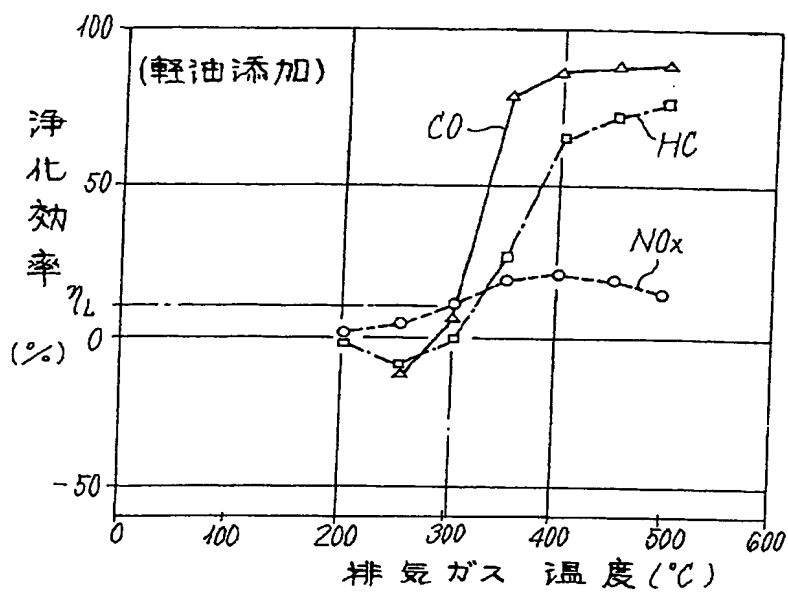
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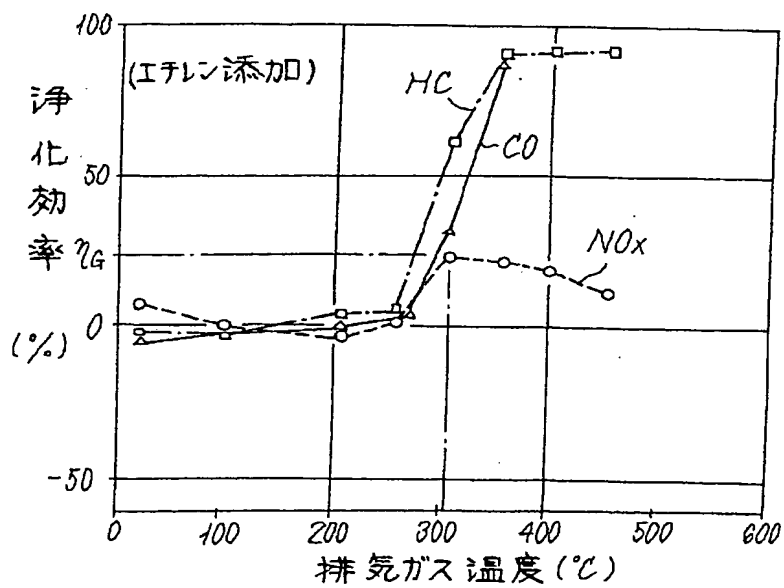
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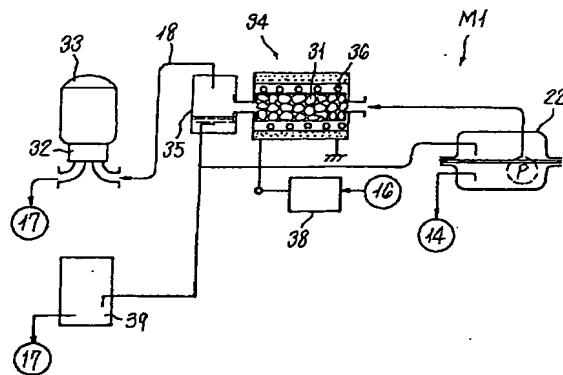
【図6】



【図7】



【図 8】



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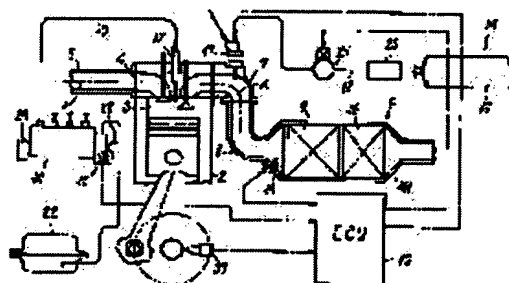
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(54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To heighten NO_x purifying efficiency in proportion to an adding quantity even if an atmospheric temperature of NO_x catalyst is in a comparatively low temperature area.

CONSTITUTION: An exhaust emission control device has nitrogen oxide reducing catalyst 9 arranged in an exhaust gas passage R so as to decompose activated nitrogen oxides NO_x by using hydrocarbon as a reducing agent and a reducing hydrocarbon adding means M arranged on the upstream side of the nitrogen oxide reducing catalyst 9 in the exhaust gas passage R, and the reducing hydrocarbon adding means M reforms fuel, and adds reducing hydrocarbon mainly composed of hydrocarbon stored in a tank 19 or the like to the exhaust gas passage R.



LEGAL STATUS

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[Date of extinction of right]

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3. In the drawings, any words are not translated.

CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] It is exhaust-air gas-cleanup equipment carry out adding the hydrocarbon for reduction carried out the hydrocarbon which it has the nitrogen-oxide reduction catalyst which is prepared in in the road [exhaust-air] exhaust air of a diesel power plant is discharged outside, and decomposes nitrogen oxide by using a hydrocarbon as a reducing agent, and the hydrocarbon addition means for reduction which are prepared in the upstream of the above-mentioned nitrogen-oxide reduction catalyst by the above-mentioned exhaust-air on the street, and the above-mentioned hydrocarbon addition means for reduction reformed fuel, and stored to a tank as a principal component to the above-mentioned exhaust-air way as the feature.

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Industrial Application] this invention relates to the exhaust air gas cleanup equipment which can eliminate NOx (nitrogen oxide) efficiently from the exhaust gas discharged from the diesel power plant of vehicles, especially the exhaust air gas cleanup equipment which adds the hydrocarbon for reduction to a nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst here, and raises the purification efficiency.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] In the exhaust gas generally discharged by driving the engine of vehicles, CO (carbon monoxide), HC (hydrocarbon), and NOx (nitrogen oxide) other than CO₂, H₂O, and N₂ are contained. The discharge is regulated as an injurious ingredient, usually, by the gasoline engine, the exhaust air system is equipped with a three way component catalyst, and, moreover, CO (carbon monoxide), HC (hydrocarbon), and NOx (nitrogen oxide) are performing harmless-ized processing of these injurious ingredients by adjusting an air-fuel ratio to theoretical air fuel ratio here.

[0003] On the other hand, from a diesel power plant being operated under hyperoxia, an air-fuel ratio could not be doubled with theoretical air fuel ratio, and exhaust gas purification processing using a three way component catalyst was not able to be performed. That is, by the diesel power plant operated in the state with many amounts of supply oxygen, the discharge of NOx becomes that there are comparatively few discharges of CO and HC with a high level.

[0004] For this reason, it is in the inclination to be equipped with the NOx catalytic converter which contained the nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst which can carry out reduction processing of the NOx under RIN operation in the exhaust air system of a diesel power plant, and various proposals have accomplished.

[0005] When the exhaust air system of a diesel power plant is equipped with the NOx catalyst which can carry out reduction processing of the NOx in a place, it has the catalytic activity region A as the NOx catalyst raised the purification efficiency if it exceeds the activation temperature T_{so} as shown in drawing 8, raising the purification efficiency known if the mole ratio of HC (hydrocarbon)/NOx in exhaust gas moreover exceeds the specified quantity, for example, shown in drawing 9. In addition, a horizontal axis is expressed with the mole ratio which is a volume ratio of HC/NOx here, a vertical axis is the temperature of exhaust gas and, as for the catalytic activity region of the NOx catalyst as an example here, the HC/NOx mole ratio changes with a certain case one or more.

[0006] It is surmised that it is effective in the upstream of the NOx catalyst of an exhaust air system to add the hydrocarbon HC for reduction to raise purification efficiency η_{NOX} of this, therefore a NOx catalyst. However, if the gas oil which is fuel is added in the addition to an exhaust air system, although this gas oil can raise the purification efficiency of a NOx catalyst, it may not contribute to the output of a diesel power plant at all, but it may cause the fall of mpg.

[0007] In addition, although there are some which took the method which adds the hydrocarbon HC for reduction (hydrocarbon) to an inhalation-of-air road side, the problem of ***** and HC (hydrocarbon) moreover added reaching near the cylinder internal surface, mixing it into the oil from the crevice

between pistons, and bringing degradation of oil forward is also produced by grasping how much the hydrocarbon HC for reduction added by the inhalation-of-air way reaches a NOx catalyst substantially. [0008] HC (hydrocarbon) which accomplishes fuel, such as gas oil, in a place changes the state with the atmosphere, i.e., temperature, and a pressure, and the property changes for each component of every according to the difference of a carbon number especially. For example, although four or less-carbon number HC (hydrocarbon) component constitutes the shape of gas and 16 or more-carbon number HC (hydrocarbon) component constitutes [HC (hydrocarbon) component which has a carbon number in 5 or 15 among the product when gas oil has this under the atmosphere of an ordinary temperature ordinary pressure] the shape of a solid-state, these states change the shape of liquid with change of atmosphere, such as temperature and a pressure, a lot. And changing the property and the property as a reducing agent which activates a NOx catalyst and decomposes nitrogen oxide especially for every product is presumed.

[0009]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] Thus, when HC (hydrocarbon), such as gas oil as a hydrocarbon HC for reduction, is added in an exhaust air system, the addition has been grasped certainly, and there was an advantage of not producing problems, such as oil degradation,, either.

[0010] However, if it is not made not to fully store according to gas, a liquid, and an individual at a tank when reforming fuel, such as gas oil, and adding, though a NOx catalyst is activable by supplying fuel, such as gas oil, to an exhaust air system as HC (hydrocarbon), it is difficult to supply the optimal amount for the engine state of always changing in many cases. That is, it does not restrict that the hydrocarbon HC for reforming reduction of only the amount which fully raises the purification efficiency of a NOx catalyst can be added without a tank though reforming processing is carried out and the fuel of an engine is supplied with the control according to the engine operation state, but amount reservation is difficult for it in many cases.

[0011] Thus, it did not restrict that only an initial complement could always secure HC (hydrocarbon), such as gas oil as a hydrocarbon HC for reduction, but there were a shortage of an addition and a problem that the amount of atmospheric exhausts of HC (hydrocarbon) increased by overage conversely, conventionally.

[0012] Irrespective of operational status, always, the purpose of this invention adds the hydrocarbon HC for reduction optimum dose every, and is to offer the exhaust air gas cleanup equipment which can raise NOx purification efficiency.

[0013]

[Means for Solving the Problem] The nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst which this invention is prepared in in the road [exhaust air] exhaust air of a diesel power plant is discharged outside, uses a hydrocarbon as a reducing agent, and decomposes nitrogen oxide in order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, It is characterized by adding the hydrocarbon for reduction which made the principal component the hydrocarbon which it has the hydrocarbon addition means for reduction prepared in the upstream of the above-mentioned nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst by the above-mentioned exhaust air on the street, and the above-mentioned hydrocarbon addition means for reduction reformed fuel, and was stored in the tank on the above-mentioned exhaust air way.

[0014]

[Function] Since the hydrocarbon for reduction which made the principal component the hydrocarbon which reformed fuel and was stored in the tank is added by the exhaust air way, it changes with the required addition according to operational status being securable.

[0015]

[Example] The diesel power plant (it is only henceforth described as an engine) 1 is equipped with the exhaust air gas treatment equipment of drawing 1 . In the cylinder crank case 2 of this engine 1, four combustion chambers 3 (only a breath cylinder was shown in drawing 1) are arranged in series. The suction port 4 of each combustion chamber 3 is open for free passage to an inlet manifold 5, and the inlet pipe and air cleaner which are not illustrated to this inlet manifold 5 are connected. On the other hand, the exhaust air port 6 of each combustion chamber 3 is open for free passage to an exhaust

manifold 7, and catalytic-converter C which held the nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst (it is only henceforth described as a NO_x catalyst) 9 and the oxidation catalyst 10 in this exhaust manifold 7 through the exhaust pipe 8, the muffler which is not illustrated are connected one by one. The exhaust air way R is constituted.

[0016] Each combustion chamber 3 is equipped with a fuel injection valve 12, respectively, and each fuel injection valve 12 is connected with the fuel injection pump 14 through each fuel pipe 13. This fuel injection pump 14 is a sequence-type pump driven in response to the turning effort of the crankshaft which an engine 1 does not illustrate, carries out metering of the fuel oil consumption according to the lever position VL of the load lever 23 interlocked with the accelerator pedal which does not receive and illustrate fuel (gas oil) supply from a fuel tank 22, and takes the composition of common knowledge of making each fuel injection valve 12 drive at fuel injection timing adjusted by the timer 24. That is, a fuel injection pump 14 carries out the injection drive of each fuel injection valve 12 corresponding to each cylinder in fuel injection timing in front of the compression top dead center of each cylinder, and it is constituted so that high-pressure fuel (gas oil) may be sprayed on the combustion chamber of each cylinder. A sign 15 shows the load sensor which tells below-mentioned ECU16, the lever position VL signal, i.e., the load information, on a fuel injection valve 14, in drawing 1.

[0017] Catalytic-converter C equips a couple preparation and each catalyst support with the NO_x catalyst 9 of a zeolite system, and the oxidation catalysts 10, such as a palladium Pd system and Pt system, for the catalyst support of a monolith type in the shape of a serial in the casing 101. The sign 11 in drawing 1 is supported by casing 101, and shows the emission temperature sensor which outputs exhaust gas temperature T information to below-mentioned ECU16.

[0018] As a NO_x catalyst 9 of a zeolite system, a copper system zeolite catalyst (CU/ZSM -5) is adopted here, for example. By receiving supply of HC, as for the property of this catalyst, this HC component raises purification efficiency as a reducing agent, and it decomposes NO_x into N₂ and O₂ effectively. On the other hand, the oxidation catalyst 10 of a palladium Pd system has the capacity which decomposes HC (hydrocarbon) etc. into H₂O and CO₂ effectively.

[0019] Furthermore, a hydrocarbon addition means M for reduction to add the hydrocarbon for reduction which made the principal component the hydrocarbon reformed near the unification section of an exhaust manifold 7 on the exhaust air way R is connected. This hydrocarbon addition means M for reduction consists of HC tanks 19 filled up with ethylene C₂H₄ as reformed gas which reformed and obtained fuel, such as the opening-and-closing valve 21 and regulator 20 which are connected with the HC injector 17 and the HC injector 17 one by one through the HC pipe 18, and gas oil.

[0020] The main part 25 supported by the exhaust manifold 7 as the HC injector 17 is a fluid fuel injection equipment, for example, it is shown in drawing 2 here, The nozzle 26 formed at the nose of cam in a main part 25, and the valve element 27 which makes a nozzle 26 open and close, It consists of a spring 28 which carries out valve-closing energization of the valve element, a solenoid 29 which resists the elastic force of a spring and drives a valve element 27 in the valve-opening direction, and the guide section 30 which leads ethylene C₂H₄ from the HC pipe 18 to a nozzle 26. A solenoid 29 is connected to below-mentioned ECU16 here, a valve element 27 carries out the opening-and-closing drive of the nozzle 26 according to the on-off signal (duty ratio) of the said division, in zero, it can secure no injecting and duty ratio can secure [the duty ratio] the maximum injection quantity at 100%.

[0021] The opening-and-closing valve 21 is switched by the on-off signal from below-mentioned ECU16, and supplies ethylene C₂H₄ to the HC injector 17 timely. A regulator 20 decompresses the pressure of ethylene C₂H₄ which are gas from the HC tank 19 to a request value, and supplies it to the opening-and-closing valve 21. It is the high pressure tank filled up with ethylene C₂H₄ beforehand obtained by reforming processing of fuel, such as gas oil, and beforehand, it stores in a tank individually and works production is carried out, and the HC tank 19 is exchanged for timely and mounted. In addition, it replaces with the reformed gas which reformed fuel on this HC tank 19, the hydrocarbon for reduction which made the principal component the hydrocarbon which is the reforming liquid which reformed fuel is stored, and you may make it supply.

[0022] An important section consists of well-known microcomputers, and ECU16 incorporates the fuel-

injection-timing θ_{tai} information for every cylinder which is crank angle information here from the crank angle sensor 37, incorporates the lever position VL information on a fuel injection valve 14 from the load sensor 15, incorporates exhaust gas temperature T information from the emission temperature sensor 11, and functions as driving the HC injector 17 in accordance with the program of drawing 4 or drawing 5.

[0023] Hereafter, the operation of this equipment is explained in accordance with the program of drawing 4 or drawing 5.

[0024] If an engine 1 goes into operation, ECU16 will start engine drive control along with the main routine of the common knowledge which is not illustrated.

[0025] In a main routine, the ON operation of the opening-and-closing valve 21 is carried out with engine starting, if it judges whether the quantity to be stored of both the tanks 33 and 39 exceeds a predetermined value and is less, tank exchange instructions are ****(ed), and if HC injection control routine is reached in the middle, it will progress to control of drawing 4.

[0026] At Steps s1 and s2, exhaust gas temperature T_g is incorporated, before exceeding the catalytic activity-ized temperature T_{so} to which this exhaust gas temperature T_g is set beforehand, it is regarded as under warming up, and progresses to Step s3, duty ratio DUs is processed as zero, i.e., injecting [no], and a return is carried out to a main routine here. On the contrary, exhaust gas temperature T_g exceeds the catalytic activity-ized temperature T_{so} at Step s2, if it is considered that the catalyst was activated, Step s4 will be reached and the lever position VL currently beforehand computed by the main routine and engine-speed N_e information will be incorporated. Then, at Step s5, based on HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio calculation map of drawing 3, HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio DUs is computed, and a return is carried out to a main routine.

[0027] HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio calculation map used at this step s5 is beforehand set up so that HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio DUs equivalent to the lever position VL and the amount of targets of ethylene C_2H_4 according to the engine speed N_e (an equivalent for all cylinders) can be computed.

[0028] On the other hand, in a main routine, interruption processing by the fuel-injection-timing θ_{tai} pulse from the crank angle sensor 36 is performed, and if fuel-injection-timing θ_{tai} for every predetermined crank angle is reached, the newest HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio DUs in Step m1 shown in drawing 5 will be incorporated here. Furthermore, at Step m2, the HC injector 17 is driven by this duty ratio DUs, ethylene C_2H_4 of all cylinder considerable amounts are added on an exhaust air way R lower stream of a river, and a return is carried out to a main routine.

[0029] Thus, with this equipment, it adds for a NOx catalyst from the exhaust air way R by using such a lot of ethylene C_2H_4 gas that an engine load and an engine speed being large at the time of operation after the NOx catalyst 9 of an engine 1 exceeds an activation temperature T_{so} as a reducing agent. For this reason, since NOx can be certainly decomposed into N_2 and O_2 , HC is simultaneously decomposed into H_2O and CO_2 and an oxidation catalyst 10 moreover decomposes into H_2O and CO_2 certainly HC which passed the NOx catalyst 9, it can prevent certainly carrying out air discharge of the HC as it is.

[0030] Here, each purification efficiency η_a according to the exhaust gas temperature of NOx, HC, and CO of the NOx catalyst 9 at the time of using ethylene C_2H_4 for drawing 7 as a hydrocarbon HC for reduction was shown. In addition, others showed each purification efficiency η_a according to the exhaust gas temperature of NOx, HC, and CO which were obtained on the same conditions to drawing 6, using gas oil as a hydrocarbon HC for reduction.

[0031] The way of the purification efficiency (purification efficiency η_aG in a point with an exhaust gas temperature [in drawing 7] of 300 degrees C) at the time of adding ethylene C_2H_4 for a NOx catalyst as a hydrocarbon HC for reduction so that more clearly than these Even if it is raised more clearly than the purification efficiency in gas oil addition (purification efficiency η_aL in a point with an exhaust gas temperature [in drawing 6] of 300 degrees C) and the exhaust gas temperature of a NOx catalyst is in a low-temperature region comparatively especially, it is efficient and the purification processing of the NOx can be carried out. Consequently, ** which this addition is efficient comparatively, and the purification processing of the NOx can be carried out, prevents addition of useless HC (hydrocarbon),

and can reduce the fall of mpg by ethylene C₂H₄ addition.

[0032] In an above-mentioned place, although ethylene C₂H₄ were explained as gasified HC (hydrocarbon), it can replace with this and HC (hydrocarbon) which propylene C₃H₆ and others gasified can also be used.

[0033] In an above-mentioned place, although it had added ethylene C₂H₄ on the exhaust air way R, the hydrocarbon addition means M for reduction is replaced with this, as shown in drawing 8, the hydrocarbon addition means M1 for reduction may reform the gas oil of a fuel tank 22 with the gas oil reforming catalyst 31, and may generate reformed gas and a reforming liquid, and may add these on the exhaust air way R according to an engine operation state. In addition, if it adds on the exhaust air way R by using as the hydrocarbon for reduction the reforming liquid which reformed gas oil, NOX may be able to be purified more effectively.

[0034] The hydrocarbon addition means M1 for reduction in this case connects the gas oil reforming means 34 and the vapor-liquid eliminator 35 to the fuel tank 22 of gas oil one by one, and the reformed gas of the vapor-liquid eliminator 35 is connected so that may be returned a reforming liquid to the reforming fuel tank 33 and a part for the reforming fuel liquid tank 39 and a surplus may be returned to a fuel tank 22 through a check valve 32. Here, it connects with the HC injector 17 through the change-over valve which the reforming fuel tank 33 and the reforming fuel liquid tank 39 do not illustrate. Here, drive control of the change-over valve and the HC injector 17 which are not illustrated is carried out by ECU16.

[0035] The gas oil reforming means 34 fills up the reforming catalyst hold machine 37 equipped with the heater 36 with the gas oil reforming catalyst 31. The heater 36 is connected with ECU16 through the heater drive circuit 38. As a gas oil reforming catalyst 31, the gas oil reforming catalyst of a zeolite system is adopted.

[0036] The gas oil reforming catalyst of this zeolite system changes the supplied gas oil to the shape of gas, and the liquefied HC (hydrocarbon) component HC, i.e., the hydrocarbon for reduction. The product from the gas oil reforming means 34 is divided into HC (hydrocarbon) component which is reformed gas comparatively low-molecular with the vapor-liquid eliminator 35, and HC (hydrocarbon) component which are other reforming liquids here, and reformed gas is constituted so that other reforming liquids may be returned to the reforming fuel liquid tank 39 and a part for the surplus may be returned to the reforming fuel tank 33 in a fuel tank 22, respectively.

[0037] In addition, the gas oil reforming catalyst 31 shows hydro cracking operation of reforming the component ratio of gas oil to a product with a high low-molecular component ratio (gas-like product), in response to the heat-treatment at a heater 36, and is indicated by JP,51-15000,B about the hydro cracking operation of the gas oil reforming catalyst of the zeolite system which can be used as such a gas oil reforming catalyst.

[0038] In this case, if ECU16 performs processing which generates reformed gas and a reforming liquid continuously and turns around it on the specified quantity until the quantity to be stored of both the tanks 33 and 39 exceeds a predetermined value in the main routine which is not illustrated, it will repeat control of suspending reforming processing. And from the tanks 17 and 39 of mount of so a lot of reformed gas or reforming liquids that be [large / an engine load and an engine speed], it leads to the HC injector 17 alternatively, control added for the NOx catalyst 9 is performed, and this fully raises purification efficiency etaNOX of a NOx catalyst in the wide range operation region of an engine.

[0039]

[Effect of the Invention] As mentioned above, since the exhaust air gas cleanup equipment of this invention adds the hydrocarbon for reduction which made the principal component the hydrocarbon which reformed the fuel beforehand stored in the exhaust air way by the tank, and was stored in the tank, irrespective of operational status, always, it can add the hydrocarbon HC for reduction optimum dose every, and can raise NOx purification efficiency.

[Translation done.]

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PRIOR ART

[Description of the Prior Art] In the exhaust gas generally discharged by driving the engine of vehicles, CO (carbon monoxide), HC (hydrocarbon), and NOx (nitrogen oxide) other than CO₂, H₂O, and N₂ are contained. The discharge is regulated as an injurious ingredient, usually, by the gasoline engine, the exhaust air system is equipped with a three way component catalyst, and, moreover, CO (carbon monoxide), HC (hydrocarbon), and NOx (nitrogen oxide) are performing harmless-ized processing of these injurious ingredients by adjusting an air-fuel ratio to theoretical air fuel ratio here.

[0003] On the other hand, from a diesel power plant being operated under hyperoxia, an air-fuel ratio could not be doubled with theoretical air fuel ratio, and exhaust gas purification processing using a three way component catalyst was not able to be performed. That is, by the diesel power plant operated in the state with many amounts of supply oxygen, the discharge of NOx becomes that there are comparatively few discharges of CO and HC with a high level.

[0004] For this reason, it is in the inclination to be equipped with the NOx catalytic converter which contained the nitrogen oxide reduction catalyst which can carry out reduction processing of the NOx under RIN operation in the exhaust air system of a diesel power plant, and various proposals have accomplished.

[0005] When the exhaust air system of a diesel power plant is equipped with the NOx catalyst which can carry out reduction processing of the NOx in a place, it has the catalytic activity region A as the NOx catalyst raised the purification efficiency if it exceeds the activation temperature T_{so} as shown in drawing 8, raising the purification efficiency known if the mole ratio of HC (hydrocarbon)/NOx in exhaust gas moreover exceeds the specified quantity, for example, shown in drawing 9. In addition, a horizontal axis is expressed with the mole ratio which is a volume ratio of HC/NOx here, a vertical axis is the temperature of exhaust gas and, as for the catalytic activity region of the NOx catalyst as an example here, the HC/NOx mole ratio changes with a certain case one or more.

[0006] It is surmised that it is effective in the upstream of the NOx catalyst of an exhaust air system to add the hydrocarbon HC for reduction to raise purification efficiency η_{NOX} of this, therefore a NOx catalyst. However, if the gas oil which is fuel is added in the addition to an exhaust air system, although this gas oil can raise the purification efficiency of a NOx catalyst, it may not contribute to the output of a diesel power plant at all, but it may cause the fall of mpg.

[0007] In addition, although there are some which took the method which adds the hydrocarbon HC for reduction (hydrocarbon) to an inhalation-of-air road side, the problem of ***** and HC (hydrocarbon) moreover added reaching near the cylinder internal surface, mixing it into the oil from the crevice between pistons, and bringing degradation of oil forward is also produced by grasping how much the hydrocarbon HC for reduction added by the inhalation-of-air way reaches a NOx catalyst substantially.

[0008] HC (hydrocarbon) which accomplishes fuel, such as gas oil, in a place changes the state with the atmosphere, i.e., temperature, and a pressure, and the property changes for each component of every according to the difference of a carbon number especially. For example, although four or less-carbon number HC (hydrocarbon) component constitutes the shape of gas and 16 or more-carbon number HC (hydrocarbon) component constitutes [HC (hydrocarbon) component which has a carbon number in 5 or

15 among the product when gas oil has this under the atmosphere of an ordinary temperature ordinary pressure] the shape of a solid-state, these states change the shape of liquid with change of atmosphere, such as temperature and a pressure, a lot. And changing the property and the property as a reducing agent which activates a NOx catalyst and decomposes nitrogen oxide especially for every product is presumed.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the whole outline block diagram of the exhaust air gas cleanup equipment of this invention.

[Drawing 2] It is the cross section of HC injector used with the equipment of drawing 1 .

[Drawing 3] It is the ultimate-lines view of HC injection-quantity equivalent duty ratio calculation map used with the equipment of drawing 1 .

[Drawing 4] It is the flow chart of HC injection control routine used with the equipment of drawing 1 .

[Drawing 5] It is the flow chart of an injector drive routine used with the equipment of drawing 1 .

[Drawing 6] It is the ultimate-lines view showing an example of the purification efficiency at the time of gas oil addition.

[Drawing 7] It is the ultimate-lines view showing an example of the purification efficiency at the time of adding ethylene C₂H₄ at this equipment.

[Drawing 8] It is the outline composition diagram of the hydrocarbon addition means for reduction used in other examples of this invention.

[Drawing 9] It is the purification efficiency ultimate-lines view of a NO_x catalyst used with exhaust air gas cleanup equipment.

[Drawing 10] It is the catalytic activity region ultimate-lines view of a NO_x catalyst used with exhaust air gas cleanup equipment.

[Description of Notations]

1 Engine

3 Combustion Chamber

8 Exhaust Pipe

9 NO_x Catalyst

10 Oxidation Catalyst

12 Fuel Injection Valve

16 ECU

17 HC Injector

C Catalytic converter

R Exhaust air way

M The hydrocarbon addition means for reduction

21 Fuel Reforming Means

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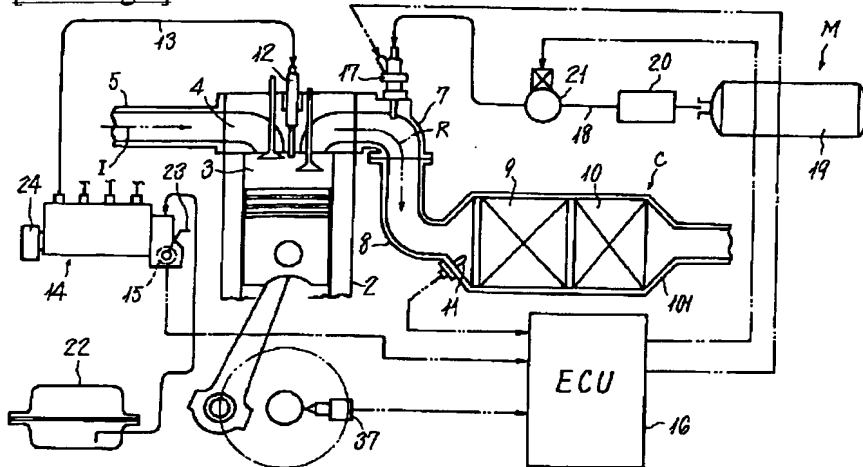
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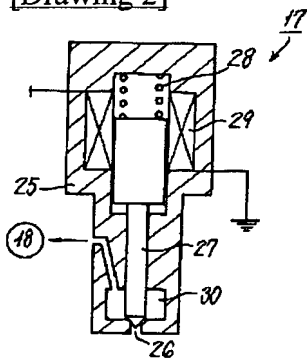
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DRAWINGS

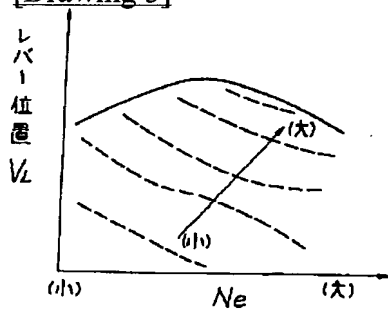
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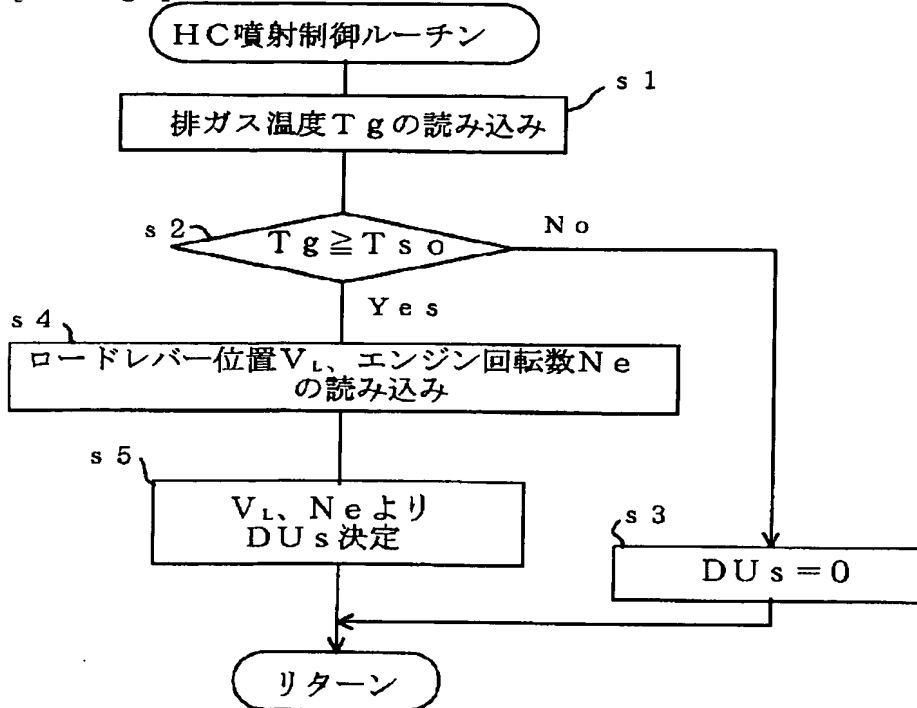
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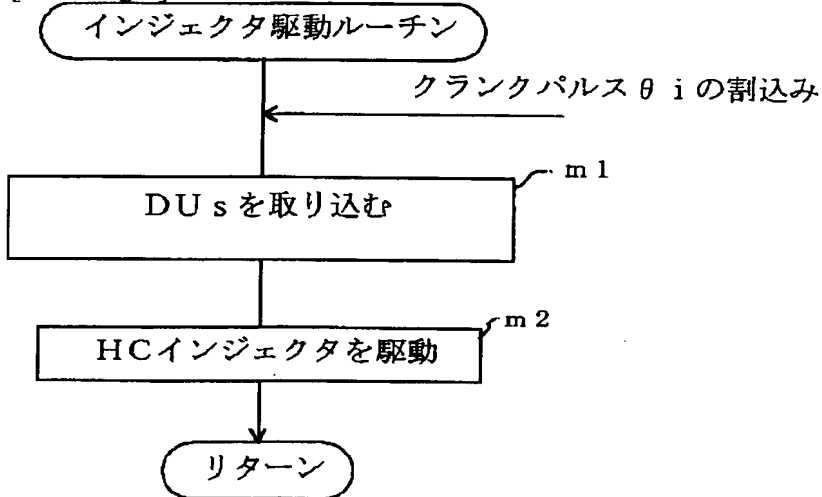
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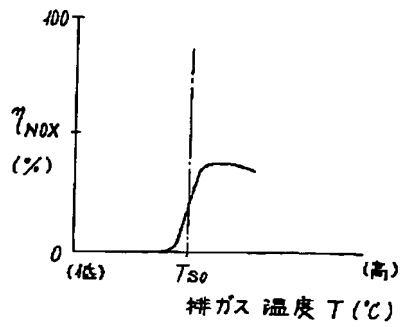
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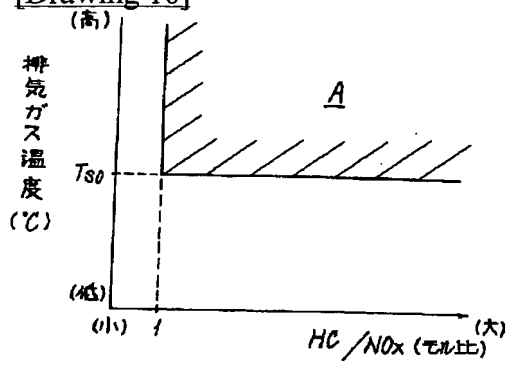
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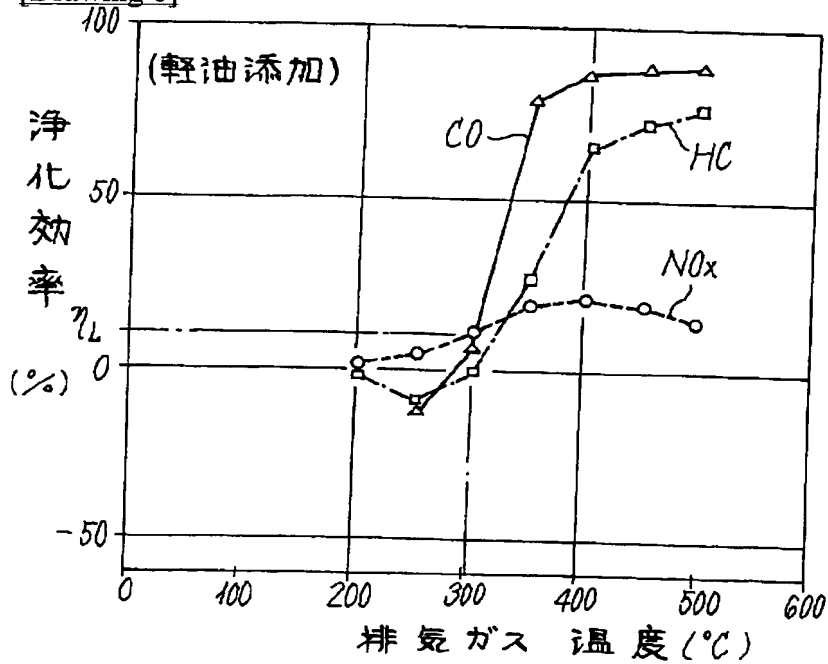
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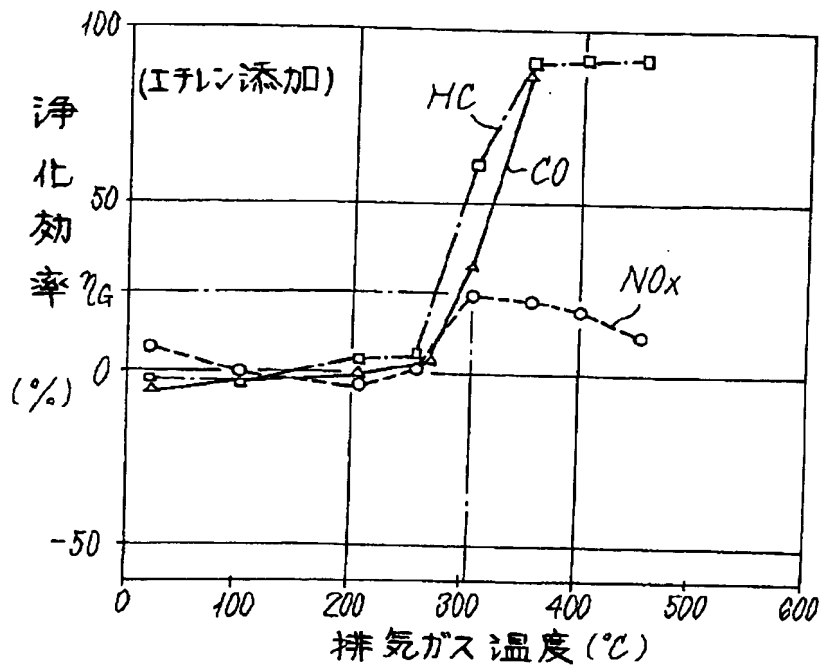
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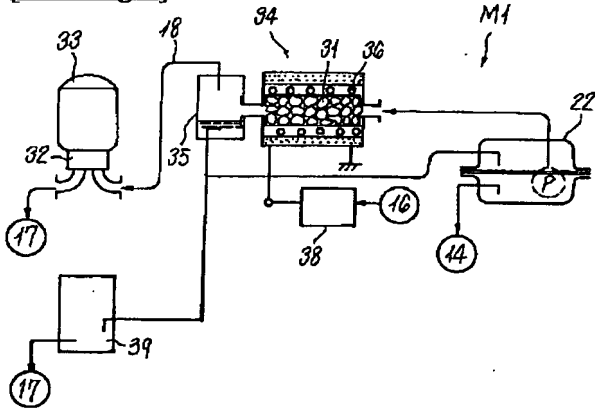
[Drawing 6]



[Drawing 7]



[Drawing 8]



[Translation done.]